

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 and new Claims 24-26 are pending in the present application.

The present invention relates to a sheet for the covering of the skin or hair and provides for the delivery of medicinal agents to the skin or hair.

Invention

The claimed invention is a sheet for covering the skin or hair that in one embodiment as claimed contains a thermoplastic resin, a medical ingredient, and an oily ingredient all present in a single-layered structure. The thermoplastic resin, a medical ingredient, and an oily ingredient are all defined in Claim 1. An outstanding feature of the present sheet as claimed in Claim 1 is that it has a modulus of from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50 % (see page 12, lines 5-14 of the text).

In another embodiment of the invention as claimed in new Claim 24, the sheet product of the invention is claimed in terms of the manner in which it is made. As in the case of Claim 1, the sheet product has a modulus ranging from 1 to 2000 cN/10 mm when the sheet is stretched by 50 % and is such that it conforms to the skin or hair when applied to the skin or hair (see page 4, lines 20-22 of the text).

New Claim 25 is supported by Claim 1 and new Claim 26 is supported by the text at page 4, lines 1-4. Entry of the new claims into the record is respectfully requested.

Appln No. 09/623,485  
Amendment 37 CFR 1.114

Prior Art Rejection, 35 USC 103

With respect to Claims 1-3 and 7-10 as they have stood rejected in view of the disclosure of Fowler, U. S. Patent 6,063,397, applicants retain their position against the patent as stated on the record.

As to new Claims 24 -26, applicants note that the Fowler patent does not describe a sheet for the covering of the skin or hair that has the natural ability to conform to the skin or hair when applied to the skin or hair. Rather, in Fowler a water insoluble substrate is prepared by spraying a solution prepared from several phases as taught, for instance in Examples 1-4, onto a hyperapertured, non-woven substrate, or the hyperapertured, non-woven substrate is dipped into the prepared solution. On the other hand, in the present invention, a sheet is prepared from thermoplastic resin (A), medical ingredient (B) and an oily ingredient as described, for instance, in Example 1 where a T-die is taught. Note that in a preferred embodiment the sheet is of a thickness of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  or less. Accordingly, the invention as claimed is believed patentably distinguished over Fowler.

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It is believed that the application is in proper condition for consideration on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F.D. Vastine", written over the printed name of Frederick D. Vastine.

Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Frederick D. Vastine, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 27,013

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel.: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
NFO/FDV